



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Jon Weinstein, Chairperson  
District 1  
Calvin Ball, Vice Chairperson  
District 2  
Jennifer Terrasa  
District 3  
Mary Kay Sigaty  
District 4  
Greg Fox  
District 5

### Monthly Meeting

Howard County Council  
March 13, 2017  
C. Vernon Gray Room  
8:30 a.m.

### Minutes (Approved)

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Members Present: Jon Weinstein, Chairperson; Calvin Ball, Vice Chairperson; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jennifer Terrasa

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

Spending Affordability Committee Report – Steve Sachs, Steve Poynot, Steve Hunt, Ryan Frederic, Richard Clinch, and Josh Tzucker provided an overview of the Committee's report and answered questions from the Council.

School System Budget Review Committee Recommendations – Josh Kaufman provided an update of the Committee's activities to date and an overview of their preliminary recommendations and answered questions from the Council. He also asked the Council for any specific guidance on issues the Committee should consider in its remaining months. Discussion included the need to look more comprehensively at education spending throughout the County budget beyond the school system and the gaps between what is budgeted and how funds are spent.

Agricultural Update – Keith Ohlinger discussed farming as a unique lifestyle and the challenges farmers face with non-agricultural neighbors. He provided an update on a number of efforts underway to improve public understanding of agriculture in Howard County and answered questions from the Council. The Council requested that quarterly updates be arranged at future meetings and suggested that an agriculture representative be included on future Spending Affordability Advisory Committees.

Council Member Reports – The Chairperson provided an overview of his meeting with DTCS and reported that he has asked Lonnie Robbins and Tom Yeatts to share professional insight on options and challenges for the Council to play a greater role in managing its own IT needs. For the Patuxent River Commission, Ms. Sigaty reported that the PRC hosted MDE for a hearing on

PCBs and announced that the annual work plan will be shared shortly. For MACo, Dr. Ball referred to his written report and recognized Jeff Meyers and Michele Harrod for their work researching and tracking State legislation through the session. There was no report for NACo.

Staff Reports – Ms. Feldmark referred to her written report and reminded Councilmembers to identify agenda items for the joint meeting with the Board of Education. Mr. Weinstein asked that the School Budget Review Committee recommendations be added to the agenda. Ms. Sigaty suggested that the Council advertise for individuals interested in serving on the Board of Appeals. Mr. Glendenning referred to his written report, and Ed Shulder joined him to discuss the financial audit of the school system. Dr. Ball suggested that the audit also be added to the agenda for the Council's joint meeting with the Board of Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.